

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 06575 302121Z
ACTION SCS-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 /027 W
-----013728 010234Z /65

R 301857Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8244

UNCLAS CARACAS 6575

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CARR
SUBJ: LEGAL REPRESENTATION AVAILABLE TO AMERICANS ARRESTED
ABROAD

REF: STATE 147704

1. ANSWERS ARE KEYED TO REFTTEL.

A. LEGAL COUNSEL FO "PUBLIC DEFENDER" TYPE IS PROVIDED GRATIS
TO PRISONERS INCLUDING U.S. NATIONALS WHO ARE UNABLE TO FUND
PRIVATE COUNSEL.

B. SUCH LEGAL REPRESENTATION IS APPOINTED BY THE COURT ONCE
PRISONER'S CASE COMES TO TRIAL.

C. PROBLEM HERE COMES WITH DEPARTMENT'S DEFINITION OF QUALITY.
IF WHAT IS MEANT IS ABILITY TO GET PRISONER RAPIDLY RELEASED
REGARDLESS OF HIS INVOLVEMENT THEN PAID PRIVATE COUNSEL IS BETTER.
HE HAS THE REQUISITE INFLUENCE AND POLITICAL CONNECTIONS AND
THE WILL TO USE THEM. THERE HAS BEEN NO CLAIM OF INNOCENCE
MADE BY A SINGLE U.S. CITIZEN ARRESTED ON DRUG RELATED MATTERS
IN AT LEAST THE LAST THREE YEARS. ALL PRISONERS HAVE BEEN
RELEASED WITHIN ONE WEEK TO EIGHT MONTHS OF ARREST WITH THE
EXCEPTION OF ONE INDIVIDUAL ARRESTED IN POSSESSION TWO KILOS
OF COCAINE. HE IS NOW SERVING A FOUR YEAR SENTENCE. THIS
INDIVIDUAL USED BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DEFENDERS TO NO AVAIL.
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PAGE 02 CARACA 06575 302121Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770234-0878
Format: TEL
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977064/aaaaadco.tel
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Office: ACTION SCS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 147704
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2095613
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEGAL REPRESENTATION AVAILABLE TO AMERICANS ARRESTED ABROAD
TAGS: CARR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbs://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4b77e779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009